Swamy, and some Indian businessmen. Dr. Subramanian Swamy reportedly described his visit as a "private fact finding mission".

(c) the African National Congress has criticised the delegation's attendance of the opening of the tri-cameral parliament which the ANC regards as a racist institution.

Diplomatic relations with Russian Republics

1603. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded recognition to the 12 independent Republics which so far were under the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to establish diplomatic relations with them;

(c) whether any agreements are proposed to be concluded with those Republics separately for maintaining friendship with them and continuing cooperation with them in respect of trade and commerce; and

(d) if so, details of steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Diplomatic relations continue to exist with Russia and have already been established with Adarbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraina. The process of establishment of diplomatic relations with the other Republics is underway.

(c) and (d) Agreements/Treaties would be signed with each of the independent Republics of the erstwhile USSR after bilateral consultations taking into account complementarity of interests and the need for development of cooperation in diverse and specific areas for mutual benefit. Some Agreements have already been signed with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Discussions are underway for conclusion of such Agreements with the other Republics such as Russia. Ukrains, Kirghhizstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Tadjikistan, as necessary.

Outcome of SAARC Meeting

1604. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed at the SAARC meeting held recently at Colombo;

(b) important decisions taken at that meeting in respect of mutual cooperation among the SAARC nations;

(c) the measures, if any, suggested at that meeting to tackle international terrorism; and

(d) details of follow-up action being taken in respect of the above decisions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Tht subjects discussed at the Sixth SAARC Summit held on December 21, 1991 at Colombo extended from international economic and political issues to proposals to strengthen the Association and project collective positions in international fora, measures for poverty alleviation in South Asia, regional economic cooperation and cooptration onenvironmental matters. Also included in the discussions were: provision of adequate shelter in the region, better